availed of this concession and the loss of revenue to the Railways on this account was approximately Rs. 113.6 crores.

(c) and (d) In all cases, including Senior Citizens, concession is admissible in "Mail/Express" fares irrespective of whether the passenger travels in Mail or Express or Passenger train. Concession is not admissible in "Ordinary" fares applicable to Passenger trains as these fares are already highly subsidised.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

New platform at Bhopal Station

†1046. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct platform no. 6 at Bhopal railway station;

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government so far to implement this proposal;

(c) whether it is a fact that the construction of said platform is being unnecessarily delayed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) by when, construction of said platform has been decided by Government to be started for the convenience of passengers; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) Demand of additional platform is not felt as 5 platforms

†.Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

already exist at Bhopal station and they are considered adequate for catering to the present level of traffic.

Creation of NSDI

1047. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a proposal for creation of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI);

(b) if so, the details of its functions; and

(c) how government would be benefited by this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been finalised for creation of a NSDI.

(b) NSDI will be a national infrastructure for the availability of and access to organized spatial data which will enable bodies/agencies/ institutions at community, local, state, regional and national levels to benefit from it for sustained economic growth.

(c) NSDI would directly benefit the Government in accessing and using organised spatial data vital to providing a better governance to the country. Some of the indirect benefits of NSDI include encouraging organisation/agencies of the Government to use each others data, enabling greater ease and speed of access, and saving cost and time in data searching and making data sets inter-operable so as to facilitate quick decision-making. The NSDI would benefit the government on a decision-support to undertake sustained economic development. It would also help create the required environment for promoting the spatial data business sector and generate value-added information crucial for national development.